

Bangs on New South American Birds.¹— In a review of the races of *Tangara gyroloides* Mr. Bangs describes as new *T. g. nupera* (p. 76) the form found in western Ecuador, formerly considered identical with the *T. g. bangsi* ranging from Costa Rica to Veragua. In conjunction with Mr. G. K. Noble he has described a new woodpecker, *Chrysophilus atricollis lymani* (p. 85) from Huancabamba, Peru.— W. S.

Wetmore on Duck Sickness in Utah.²— The present bulletin is a final report upon the investigations conducted by Mr. Wetmore on behalf of the U. S. Biological Survey in the vicinity of Great Salt Lake, where the mortality among water fowl has been particularly noticeable. A preliminary report was issued in 1915 and reviewed in 'The Auk' for October of that year. The present paper while going into the subject in much greater detail confirms the conclusions set forth in the preliminary report that the trouble was due to the water becoming charged with alkali. Certain salts contained in it, notably chlorides of calcium and magnesium, have been shown by actual experiment to produce the duck sickness.

The way in which the birds become infected is described by Mr. Wetmore as follows. Irrigation has decreased the amount of water supplying the marshes on the lake front, and the resulting slow drainage induces stagnation over large areas. Surface evaporation and capillary attraction rapidly draw the salts held in solution in the mud to the surface and there concentrate them. Strong winds bank up the water in the larger bays and blow it over the drying flats taking up the salts in solution and carrying with it quantities of seeds and insects upon which the ducks feed eagerly taking in naturally quite an amount of the salts. Complete draining of affected areas, increase in the supply of fresh water and caring for the sick birds, which can in a large percentage of cases be brought back to perfect health, are recommended as means to counteract the trouble.

Mr. Wetmore has done an admirable piece of work in seeking out the cause of this malady which has become a serious menace to ducks in Utah as well as in regions to the south where these birds would naturally go in the winter season.— W. S.

Mathews' 'Birds of Australia.'³— Part II of Volume VII of Mr. Mathew's work is a bulky number dealing with the Kingfishers and the Bee-eater, eight species being figured. As was to be expected the composite genus *Halcyon* comes in for some serious treatment at the author's

¹ Notes on the Geographical Races of *Tangara gyroloides*. By Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, VI, pp. 73-76, December 21, 1917.

Description of a New Woodpecker from Peru. By Outram Bangs and G. K. Noble. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club. vi, pp. 85-86. June 7, 1918.

² The Duck Sickness in Utah. By Alexander Wetmore. Bulletin 672, U. S. Department of Agriculture, June 21, 1918. pp. 1-25.

³ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Part II, Volume VII. May 15, 1918.